

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a blocking cap adapted for use with a pressurized squeegee head, the pressurized squeegee head adapted to hold attachment media, wherein the blocking cap is positioned to prevent the attachment media from being deposited on a predetermined location on a stencil as the pressurized squeegee head travels over the stencil, the stencil located on top of a circuit board.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the blocking cap has at least two opposing surfaces angled inwardly.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the blocking cap has a bottom opening.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the blocking cap has a substantially horizontal surface and four substantially vertical surfaces, each substantially vertical surface attached along an upper edge to the substantially horizontal surface.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the blocking cap has substantially square edges attached to flexible seals.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the blocking cap fits inside the pressurized squeegee head.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the pressurized squeegee head has a conditioning chamber, further wherein the blocking cap fits inside the conditioning chamber.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the blocking cap is securable to the pressurized squeegee head with one or more connectors.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the blocking cap can be slid into position along rails secured to the pressurized squeegee head.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the predetermined location corresponds with one or more previously-placed components on the circuit board, the one or more previously-placed components protruding through one or more openings in the stencil.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the one or more previously-placed components are selected from the group consisting of an individual surface-mounted component, a row of components, a pre-built die, a row of pre-built dice and a package.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the blocking cap is aligned with the previously-placed components on the circuit board.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the blocking cap is aligned manually or automatically.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the attachment media is solder paste, liquid flux or adhesive paste.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the blocking cap is made from rubber, plastic or metal.
16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
one or more blocking caps securable inside a pressurized squeegee head, the one or more blocking caps designed to allow a stencil to be partially printed on a circuit board, wherein one

or more blank strips are left in defined areas on the stencil after the one or more blocking caps travel over the stencil.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the blank strips align with components previously secured to the circuit board.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the one or more blocking caps each have a substantially horizontal surface and four substantially vertical surfaces, each substantially vertical surface attached along an upper edge to the substantially horizontal surface.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein at least two opposing substantially vertical surfaces each have a lip along a bottom edge.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the one or more blocking caps have rounded edges and corners.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the one or more blocking caps are each about 10 to 35 mm wide, about 10 to 35 mm long and about 10 to 35 mm tall.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the one or more blocking caps are made from rubber, plastic or metal.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the plastic is polyurethane.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the metal has a protective coating.

25. (Original) An apparatus for partially printing a circuit board comprising:
a first blocking cap securable to a pressurized squeegee head; and

a second blocking cap securable to the pressurized squeegee head at a predetermined distance apart from the first blocking cap.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the first and second blocking caps each create a blank strip on a stencil located on top of the circuit board as the pressurized squeegee head travels over the stencil by preventing media deposition on each blank strip.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein each blank strip is adjacent to a printed area path produced by media deposition from the pressurized squeegee head, the printed area path having a width equal to the predetermined distance between the first and second blocking caps.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein each blank strip aligns with one or more components previously secured to the circuit board, the one or more components able to protrude through openings in the stencil.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the blocking caps each have a bottom edge with a lip to prevent attachment media from leaking onto the blank strips.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the blocking caps each have rounded edges and corners to aid in providing even deposition of attachment media around each lip of the blocking caps.